

# The Anchorage Amateur

March, 1993

Anchorage Amateur Radio club Newsletter  
Editor - Harvey Rookus, NL7DK

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And More!!

## Program Log

### Alascom Quick Response Satellite Stations

Lee Wareham, KL7DTH, 'General Lee' of Alascom, will be our guest at the March 5th meeting. He is bringing his slide show program about Alascom's Quick Response Satellite Ground Stations. Lee will also tell us about some of the more interesting uses that Alascom has found for the stations.



We are fortunate to be able to have Lee for the March program. When he was first contacted about it last August, he said that he could speak to us only after the first of

the year and before the snow melts. Barring of course, some new emergency somewhere in the World (Hey, Rick, quick hide the front page of the *Daily News* before Lee sees it!)

At the February meeting, the club concentrated on passing the 1993 budget as detailed in last month's issue of the newsletter. Then, Rick Marvin, KL7HF provided an encore showing of *More Than Radios*, a videotape produced by the hams down at ICOM in Bellevue, Washington.

## Great Alaskan (Earthquake) QSO Party

The annual Alaska QSO Party is held on the 3rd weekend of March, every year. While this event is primarily a QSO party, a secondary purpose for Alaskan amateurs is remembrance of the 1964 Alaska earthquake. It serves to remind Alaskans (and others) to be ready at all times for the unexpected.

Amateur radio operators transmitted thousands of messages in the days following the earthquake, in many cases providing the only means of communication for affected areas.

The QSO party is sponsored by the South Central Radio Club and was held

for the first time in March, 1991. The SCRC will be making a special effort this year to invite participation in the QSO party by the amateur radio clubs in Lincoln County, Oregon and Crescent City, California.

Both Lincoln County and Crescent City suffered fatalities and damage as a result of the 1964 earthquake. Each year, the Lincoln County ARC participates in a Tsunami Alert Simulated Emergency Test during the month of March.

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## Twenty-One Alpha, Anyone?

By Richard Mote, AL7MO

Oh, about twenty, twenty-one years ago, there was a program on PBS called "Tennyson Anyone?". The owners of the major south Texan grocery store chain, HEB, underwrote the purchase of the series by KEDT on account of everybody would remember the store by the name of the program.

Seems that their son, Howard E. Butt, III, (whom I knew when I was in school), had taken advantage of the family's largesse in donating a tennis court to the City of Corpus Christi, to spend most of his time there practicing to become a state high school and collegiate tennis champion.

Now, KEDT figured on pretty much the same thing, that the name of the program would hook some of the viewing audience into tuning in on a Tuesday evening and spending a few minutes with the program before they found out what it was really about (Yes, that's what happened to my family as well) - Poetry. "Tennyson, Anyone?" was one of the best showcases on television for poetry that had been produced up to then, and very likely still is.

Always thought that that name was a great one, even if the creators of the program had never heard of South Texas' leading family, the Butts.

Three years ago when I was still living in Lincoln City, Oregon and serving as President of the Lincoln County ARC, I pulled that memory out of long-term storage and used it in an effort to budge the LCARC into making a larger effort for the 1990 Field Day, by using it as "Twentyone Alpha Anyone?"

We did get to Seven Alpha that year and would have made it to Eight Alpha if only the Satellite station had been on the air earlier in the day. It took until two in the morning before it was up and running, and no one else was on!

So, where is this long monolog going, well, it's time for the AARC to draft someone to be Field Day Chairman (OH NO, it won't be me, I'm still the Activities Manager, acting assistant newsletter editor and

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## AARC Club Treasurer Resigns

Fielder Dowding, KL7FHX, resigned as the AARC Treasurer in February due to a need to devote additional time to other activities. During his terms of office as the Treasurer, Fielder helped to bring the Club's finances into modern times with an extended set of accounts for the club's balance. He improved the club's ability to budget and forecast its annual income and expenditures. Thanks for a Great Job, Fielder.

## Calendar 1993

### MARCH

General Meeting 5th  
Board Meeting 10th  
29th Anniversary of The  
Great Alaska Earthquake  
Alaska QSO Party 19th-21st  
PARKA Meeting 27th  
Jackie's Place 274-3211  
2636 Spenard Road

### APRIL

General Meeting 2nd  
Board Meeting 14th  
PARKA Meeting 24th

### MAY

General Meeting 7th  
Board Meeting 12th  
PARKA Meeting 29th

### JUNE

General Meeting 4th  
Club Elections  
Board Meeting 9th  
New & Old Board Members  
Field Day 1993 26th & 27th  
PARKA Meeting ???  
Motley Picnic (Byers Lake)

3413 - Wiley Post Loop 265-2110



# REAL LIFE SKETCHES

By Harvey Rookus, NL7DK



## The Plot Thickens !!

Dave FULTON - KL7AGU  
President of AARC 1950-51

Our request for information about the Club is paying off. Dave FULTON - KL7AGU, one of the Club's Past Presidents, called with some great information. Dave was born in Illinois, but was raised in Alaska. His Father was a Railroad man and worked out of Cordova; later moving to Anchorage where he worked for the Alaska Railroad. After completing his basic schooling in Cordova, Dave went to Seattle and finished high school there. He then attended Thomas Jefferson Technical School in Seattle.

Dave drove a delivery truck in Anchorage when he was in his 20's. He became a Charter Member of the Alaska National Guard in 1941; he was the Supply Sergeant for Company "D" and later was the Battalion Supply Sergeant. His unit was called to Active Duty shortly after it was formed. He was discharged from the Army in 1945, he then put in lots of schooling under the GI Bill, mostly in Electronics. He worked in private business for awhile installing radio equipment throughout the State, then worked for Pacific Northern Air for a short time maintaining and installing radio equipment.

Then in 1956 he joined the City of Anchorage; starting up and maintaining the Radio Shop. After leaving the city, he joined the State Department of Public

Works as Deputy Director of Communications, which later became known as Telecommunications. They installed and maintained all communications for the Troopers, Highway Department, Public Safety, Fish and Wildlife, on Land, Sea and in the Air. Dave retired from the State in 1978. His wife Maggie, came to Alaska during the war, and they were married in Alaska.

Dave became a Ham in 1950, and Maggie at one time held her Novice license. Dave tells me that prior to the forming of the present club, there was a small group that attempted to start a club, but they went broke because of having to pay rent for their meeting place. There had been no Hams during the War

years as all the equipment had been shut down by law. The present club was started in 1950 after a group of Hams that got together on 10 meters decided to form a Club. Dave became the president and held office in 1950-51. He was a Volunteer Firefighter at the time and asked permission of the Fire Chief to meet in the old City Hall. They also met for awhile at the school on Fifth Avenue, (since replaced with the PAC), and they paid the janitor to clean up. They also met in the basement of KENI Radio, and for a time at Yukon Radio Supply. The club started with about two dozen members. Jack Walden was mentioned as being the first Trustee of KL7AA. Dave recalls many good Hamfests they had with the

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## *Minutes From The Board Meeting*

By: NL7DL, Lil Marvin and NL7DK, Harvey Rookus

Meeting called to order by VP AL7NK at 7:11PM. Those in attendance were: AL7MO, AL7BB, WL7IHE, KL7YF, KL7ITI, KL7IKX, WL7BF, AL7BK, NL7NN, NL7DK, NL7VR, NL7NC, KL7HFQ, NL7DL (non-voting proxy), NL7UH, AL7ID and AL7HS, I think.

The Treasurer has resigned! The VP has the briefcase and lots of papers. The need to have an internal audit done was voted on and passed. Fred Toliver was suggested and will be contacted.

In discussing a new Treasurer, AL7MO volunteered to cover from now til election time. Richard also asked for suggestions for programs. Several were forthcoming.

Also a discussion of door prizes. VHF radios, packet equipment, antenna tuners were some of things suggested.

Newsline is on the ropes and needs funds badly. Discussed a new name for the Newsletter. Meeting adjourned at 7:51PM. Submitted by acting Secretary (fillin), NL7DK.



## The 'Other AARC' Files Reply Comments On Docket 92-154.

The Arctic Amateur Radio Club of Fairbanks, recently filed a reply to adverse comments given the FCC about the proposal to bring Novice class testing into the VEC program and to require the use of three accredited VE's for each Novice class testing session.

Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ and the VEC Director of the AARC VEC, Inc., read aloud the reply comments at the February meeting of the Anchorage ARC. The reply comments included a copy of the comments originally filed with the FCC last Fall by the AARC VEC, Inc. [complete text of the AARC VEC, Inc. Fall comments elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter].

Stating their support for the position taken in the Fall comments to the FCC by the AARC VEC, Inc., the Fairbanks reply comments went on to detail the distances, transportation difficulties and expenses faced by Alaskan VE's in providing the existing testing sessions.

Fairbanks cited costs of flying in to remote 'larger' communities ranging from \$342 for Anchorage to Bethel, to as much as \$1,054 for a flight to the Pribilof Islands. They also cited that some locations require military clearance.

In conclusion, the Fairbanks reply comments supported Roger's proposal to bring the two examiner Novice testing framework into the VEC program, if only for Alaska, if not Nationwide.

# VEC Report February '93

COMMUNITY	CALL	FROM	TO
ANCHORAGE			
Dana M. Gran Bruce M. Hamler Marc C. Miranda	WL7CGG	Novice No License No License	General NC Technician NC Technician
EAGLE RIVER			
Gregory J. Austin (19 years old) Roger G. Brown Carl O. Ellis John P. Lowrey Eric B. Paerels Linda J. Perry-Plate Andy T. Seuss	WL7BKU  NL7FP WL7AB WL7CI WL7BZT	Novice  General Technician Technician Technician No License No License	General  Extra General General General NC Technician HF Technician
FAIRBANKS			
Donna L. Bettinger Richard J. Bettinger (17 years old) Roy C. Bowdre Margaret C. Clements Patrick M. Clements Lindy G. Danielson Linda K. Foglesong Forest M. Ginn Joel P. Holbrook Joel P. Holbrook (Separate testing sessions) Phillip L. Holbrook Phillip L. Holbrook (Separate testing sessions) Janet M. Keirn Rex E. Keirn, Sr. Robert L. Noffsinger NC Technician Brian K. Mellott Technician	 WL7EF   KA9KOC NL7WP N7QAV      WL7BJ	 No License Advanced  No License No License Technician Technician General No License No License HF Technician  No License Novice Novice  No License HF Technician  No License  No License	 NC Technician Extra  NC Technician HF Technician General General Advanced NC Technician HF Technician General  Novice General  NC Technician Advanced  NC
JUNEAU			
Douglas R. Grimm James M. Housley Technician Robert W. McVey Technician	WL7AM	NC Technician No License No License	HF Technician NC NC

NC Technician = No Code Technician HF Technician = Technician with HF privileges  
Submitted by Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ, VEC Director

## VEC Examination Notes

The South Central Radio Club expects to begin holding amateur radio license examinations, possibly as soon as March. They are currently looking for a

suitable location. The exams, which will be coordinated under the AARC VEC, Inc., will be held on the first Saturday in odd months (ie, March) and on the second Saturday in even months (ie, April).



## Minutes From The General Meeting

By: NL7DL, Lil Marvin

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club general meeting was opened at 7PM by Vice President Joan Beller AL7NK. Introductions were made.

Roger, KL7HFQ reports that the FCC Element 3B questions will be changed in January, 1994. If you have any questions regarding the new FCC question pool for Element 3B, please direct your questions to Roger. The new FCC Elements 2 and 3A will go into effect in July.

If you are a member of the AARC, and would like instructions for the autopatch code, please talk to

Paul Spatzek, WL7BF.

According to Section Manager Merle Beller AL7LD, ARRL NW Division Head Mary Lewis, will check with the ARRL to try to find out why Alaskans are receiving their QST magazines late.

The general membership reviewed and approved the budget for 1993.

Roger, KL7HFQ read comments from a letter from the Arctic ARC in Fairbanks. The letter was addressed to the FCC regarding the inclusion of Novice tests

under the VEC examination system. The letter gave an excellent description of the problems created by weather, temperature and distance within the State of Alaska which would greatly aggravate attempting to give Novice tests within the VEC system in Alaska. Other persons who commented in writing on this subject included Bob Baker, NL7UH, Robert Wilson, AL7KK, Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ, William Raynsford, AL7JK. The Juneau ARC added their support to the comments made by the Arctic ARC.

The membership viewed the video "More Than Radios". Raffle prizes were then awarded. Lil did not win the raffle prize which included a bag of M&M's. However, Red, WL7AA, who did win the prize, had mercy on Lil and gave the M&M's to her. Thanks Red!! The eatin' after the meetin's was held at Elmer's as usual.

*Lil Marvin, NL7DL*

### Swap N Shop

40 MHz Hitachi Oscilloscope Model V-422 Portable - with handle. Weighs only 16 lbs. 5" x 14" x 17". Good condition. \$200.00. Call Flip Todd any time, any day 274-4370.

Hygain TH3MK3 Tribander with balun, \$125.00. Anchor screws (4 ft) for tower, \$50.00, never used. Contact Larry Volker, KL7IWF at 373-4706.

Spider multi-band (10-80m) HF antenna with complete ground radial kit, mounting brackets for coax or wire. Larsen Kulrod NMO-220 whip antenna with coil for 220 MHz. B&W AP-10 portable whip antenna for HF (10, 15, 20, 40 & 80m). Prices are negotiable, call for details. Ed Maher, NL7VP, (w) 271-2685 (h) 243-4348.

Heathkit SB102 SSB transceiver, mike, headphones, filter & logbook. Heathkit AC power supply model HP-23B. Heathkit HN-31 'Cantenna' dummy RF load. Dipole antenna for 20-40-80. Micronta field strength & SWR tester #21-525B, new, never used. Kantronics code practice tapes for 5, 7, 10 & 13, and 15 words per minute. Codemaster tapes CM-1, CM-1-1/2, and CM-2. All tapes include answer sheets. Package price \$200.00. Call Terry Rogers, KL7HK at 333-6473.

### DX Special Edition

I can at a low price print, fill QSL cards for any HAM's or SWL's (FB for contesters) and send it via QSL bureau. For details please write to: Gaudentas Mozura, LY3BHY, PO Box 6, Moletai 4150, Lithuania.

### Real Life Sketches

(Continued From Page 3)

Fairbanks Club, at such places as Copper Center and Paxson. Also mentioned as members at the time were Chuck Sappah - KL7PJ and his XYL - KL7YG.

I wish to Thank Dave and Maggie Fulton for a very pleasant hour spent reminiscing about days gone by. It was a real treat. Harvey Rookus - Editor



# Alaskan QSO Party (Continued From Page 1)

## CONTEST RULES

Period of operation: The contest begins at 0000Z on the third Saturday of March and continues until 2400Z the following Sunday evening (48 hours total).

Alaskan stations please note that the contest actually begins at 3PM Alaskan Time on the preceding Friday afternoon, which is equivalent to 0000 Saturday morning, UTC.

Awards: Special certificate for the highest score in each of six categories. Participation certificates for any station submitting a log showing contacts with ten or more Alaskan stations during the contest period.

Categories: A - Single Operator (Alaska), B - Single Operator (Alaska QRP), C - Multi Operator (Alaska), D - Single Operator (Non-Alaskan), E - Single Operator (Non-Alaskan QRP), and F - Multi Operator (Non-Alaskan). Note that QRP stations are limited to ten watts or less output.

Contest exchange: 1) Station callsign (at least your own, both are acceptable). 2) QSO number and category (See examples). And 3) Alaskan stations send their Alaskan City (standard abbreviations OK on CW), other 49 states stations send their state (abbreviations OK), and non-USA stations send country or city.

Sample contest exchanges:

Alaskan to any station - "W5ABC de KL7XYZ NR 150A Anchorage". Other USA stations to Alaskan - "KL7XYZ de W5ABC NR 210D TX". DX to Alaskan - "KL7XYZ de G4AAA NR 75D London".

Scoring: SSB/AM/FM Phone - one point per contact. CW/RTTY/SSTV/Packet - two points per contact. CW Contacts in Novice/Technician subbands - five points per contact.

Satellite - ten points per contact (any mode). Bonus points per QSO - 160 meter contacts count TRIPLE score and 75/80 meter contacts count DOUBLE score.

*There will be NO credit given for contest contacts made on the 30, 17 or 12 meter bands; these WARC bands are too narrow to use for contesting.*

Working the same station on a different band or a different mode on the same band counts as a new contact. Duplicate contacts (same band and same mode) are not permitted.

Alaskan stations may work any station including other Alaskans. Other stations must work Alaskan stations. Each station must work at least ten (other) Alaskan stations to receive a participation certificate.

Multipliers: Non-Alaskan stations multiply total QSO points by the total number of Alaskan cities worked. Each city may be counted one time per band and mode.

Remember that there are

approximately 250 recognized separate towns in Alaska, with about two-thirds of them having at least one amateur radio operator. Alaskan stations multiply QSO points by the total number of states and countries worked. Each state and/or country may be counted one time per band and mode.

Suggested operating frequencies: Regular CW and Phone stations use a 25 KHz window, starting at 25 KHz from the lower band or sub-band edge. If mode and/or license restrictions are applicable, use the appropriate sub-bands.

Specific mode stations (RTTY, satellite, etc.) and Novice/HF Technician stations should use the normal band plans appropriate to their mode and license requirements.

Examples: (For 20 meters) CW 14025 - 14050 (all classes), RTTY 14075 - 14100 (all classes), Phone 14175-14200 (extra & advanced) and 14250-14275 (general).

Entries must be received no later than June 30th of the year in which the contest was held. Enclose a large (#10) self addressed envelope and sufficient postage to receive your certificate.

Entries should be mailed to the South Central Radio Club, c/o Jim Wiley, KL7CC, 8023 East 11th Court, Anchorage, Alaska 99504-2003.

For a printed list of the recognized Alaskan cities, send an SASE with \$1.00 postage attached (or enclosed) to the SCRC at the same address.



## Twenty-One Alpha Anyone?

(Continued From Page 2)

have just been given the TEMPORARY assignment of filling in as Treasurer for the remainder of the year) and for the club to begin planning on this year's event.

*And seeing as how with 400 plus members, the AARC is one of the VERY LARGEST (we're in at least the top 15 if not the top 10) ham clubs in the USofA, we ought to have one of the VERY LARGEST Field Day efforts each year!*

Field Day is one time of the year when we can practice our ability to operate under emergency conditions on all bands and modes (except 30 meters). It is also a prime opportunity to put on a public demonstration of our capabilities. Shouldn't we do it up in a big way?

Now, while it would be very difficult for us to actually do 21 Alpha on Field Day, we certainly can make it to Ten Alpha or higher. And take a look at last November's QST for the results of the 1992 Field Day. There was only one Ten Alpha station, three 11 Alphas, two who were 12 Alphas, and NO 13 or 14 Alphas.

There was one club at 15 Alpha and two who attempted TWENTY-FIVE ALPHA! Hey, once we get to Ten Alpha or higher, we get a chance at being the BEST in our class!!

Now, how does one get to 21 Alpha, or to Ten or Twelve or whatever? Take a look at the Twenty-One Alpha Table and just start marking off what you think it can be done from Anchorage, and you can see just how fast you can get there, from here.

Remember, the KL7AA Team

doesn't have to operate all of the positions for the entire Field Day. It just needs to operate as many as it can, as long as it can (or wants to). We don't have to make contacts with each position the team puts on the air, we just have to TRY. That's what it's all about. And a good time to try, would be for an hour or two just before or after the Field Day Picnic! This is a perfect opportunity to join in on the action for those of us who aren't able to make it to the regular meetings as often as they'd like.

For those of you who are new to the club and new to hamming, just because you may still have only a Novice or Code-Free Technician or HF Technician license doesn't mean that you can't join in on the fun and effort of Field Day. Take a look at how many of the positions you can operate on the Twenty-One Alpha list! I can see eight that NC Techs can operate and five more that Novices and HF Techs can join in on in the appropriate subbands. And that's going no higher than 70 centimeters.

And I bet that if you don't have the necessary equipment for those bands or modes, that someone in the club does, who will either there or lend the equipment for Field Day. In the June issue, we will give a listing of the bands and modes that the KL7AA Field Day Team will be using. Any member of the club is not going to work on the KL7AA Team from the Field Day site should try to contact the team on as many bands and modes as possible.

Now let's see, who was it at the last Board Meeting that said that they were interested in setting up to operate Satellite ???

Table 1 - Twenty-One Alpha Field Day

Rig	Band	Mode	Notes
1	20	Phone	
2	15	Phone	
3	40	Phone	
4	20	Digital	
5	15	Digital	1
6	40	Digital	1
7	75	Phone	
8	10	Phone	1,2
9	10	Digital	1,2
10	30	Digital	1
11	Two	Digital	3
12	Two	Phone	3
13	160	Any Mode	
14	Satellite	Any-Mode	3
15	70cm	Phone	3
16	Six	Phone	3
17	125cm	Any Mode	1,3
18	17	Any Mode	
19	12	Any Mode	
20	70cm	Digital	3
21	Six	Digital	3

### Footnotes:

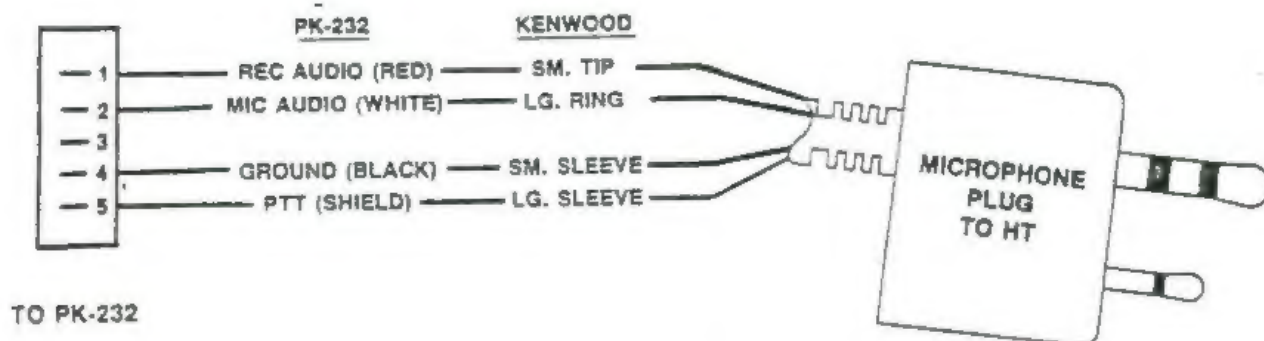
Digital means your choice of CW, RTTY, Packet or SSTV.

1. Novices can operate in their portion of the band using the appropriate modes.

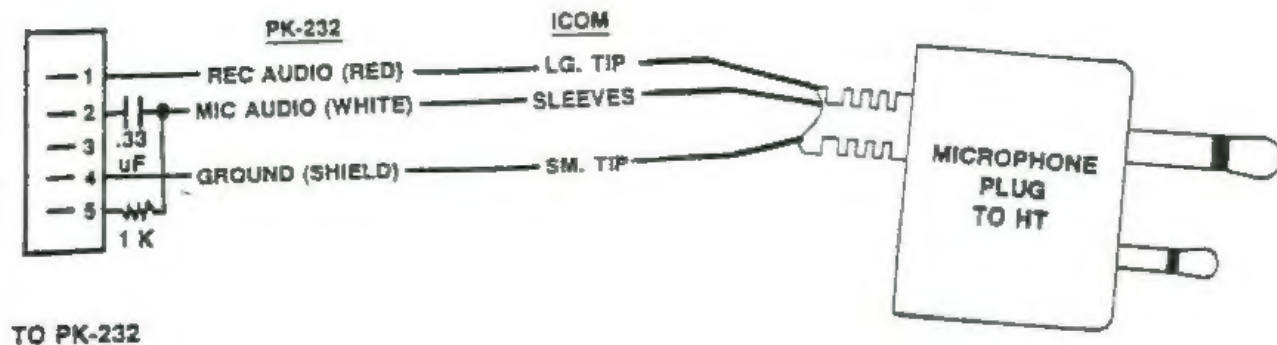
2. This can be part of the Novice/HF Technician Station.

3. Technicians can operate on these bands and on these modes regardless of HF or NC status.

**Model MFJ-5026X:** for most Kenwood Hts. except 2500, and those radios that are pin compatible with them.



**Model MFJ-5024X:** for most Icom/Yaesu and Alinco 560 Hts and those radios that are pin compatible with them.





# SHOOT THE WORKS

By Chuck Frensley - WL7DZ

Well, as promised in the last article (I hope I did not offend TOO many of you) herein are contained some tidbits of information regarding getting those elusive pictures of some of Alaska's best. ....

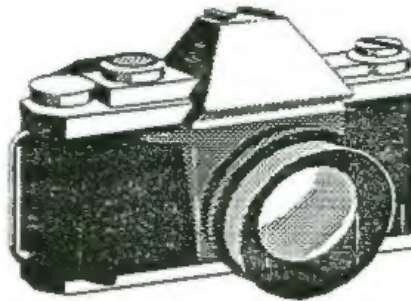
First, let me set you up with what I feel is a minimum of equipment necessary to photograph---whatever it is you are going to photograph.

Camera. Now there's a good beginning. Whatever kind you are going to use. I will assume that most will use a 35mm and that it will be the SLR type (Single Lens Reflex).

A standard focal length lens, say a 50mm; a wide-angle, anywhere from 21 to 35mm; and last but not least a MODERATE telephoto, 300mm is my absolute final offer. Anything less can and will result in some of your shots looking like the subject was a mile away and usually, hard to see.

Next, a sturdy tripod. After all, if you are going to get some pristine shots, you most likely will be shooting in early morning or late afternoon. This is when most animals are resting, not as nomadic and light can be at a minimum.

If the legs of the tripod will separate allowing it to sit real low to the ground and you to sit low as well, that's great. The less you look like a human bean the better.



I won't go into mosquito repellents, bandages and the like. You know what you would need to protect yourself in the wild.

Wear dark clothing and leave the glitter at home. and don't take along your Walkman. Animals have super-keen hearing and you will only make it difficult for the rest who have been out since before daybreak. Keep us in mind too, OK? (I'll be one of them).

Take extra batteries for the camera, motor drive/winder, remote control, whatever. There ain't too many photo counters along the shores of Big Lake or along the Kenai River.

Lens cleaner, tissues, all the usual photo essentials. Make a list before your trip, then look at it the next day. You will most likely find you left something off.

I have been out, set up and found I had ONLY ONE ROLL OF FILM! Get the picture?

If your trek is to take you across or near private property, contact the owner ahead of time. Personally, I have never been refused access to private property.

Also, be careful when crossing No-Man's-Land. A lot of hard-to-see animals use these areas to incubate eggs and/or raise their young. If you harass them enough or damage their nesting area, they WILL leave, abandoning the eggs or young and possibly not return at all.

Use your wide-angle to capture the animal in it's natural surroundings. This shows that we are all a small part of a much bigger picture.

Use the telephoto to move in close without encroaching on the animal's space and again, threatening them to the point that they leave.

I have obtained many a candid shot using my long lens and not only did they not feel threatened, sometime they were not even aware I was there.

Don't be afraid to tilt the camera vertically if it will compliment the picture or subject. An eagle atop a tree would be a good example or an Orca with a mountain peak directly behind it.

Above all, use your imagination, look through the viewfinder often and don't be afraid to take more than one shot. I often shoot dozens and then pick and choose the best later.

And remember: Let's be careful out there. . . it was their home first!!

Next month: who knows?



Dear Uncle Charlie,

## YOU CAN'T DO THAT HERE, Or There Either! AARC VEC, Inc Comments To FCC On Novice Examinations

September 4, 1992

Secretary,  
Federal Communications Comm.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Comments to Petition for  
Rulemaking PR Docket No. 92-  
154

Commissioners:

This letter contains the comments of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, Inc. VEC to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making released July 23, 1992 in docket 92-154. the Notice was filed in response to petitions by the American Radio Relay League ("ARRL") and W5YI-VEC ("W5YI"), both of which petitions were filed on February 26, 1992 and both of which seek an FCC rule-making requiring that Novice class examinations take place solely within the VEC program. We oppose the petitions.

As noted in Docket 83-27 (establishing the VEC program), the Novice volunteer examiner program was not altered because the system has been working well since the early 1950s and the VEC program was in its infancy and, to a large extent, still experimental. Since the inception of the VEC program, the Novice volunteer examiner program has continued to work well.

Among the reasons put forth in support of bringing the Novice class examinations totally within the VEC system are (1) the

greater availability of VEC testing around the country, (2) the greater privileges Novice class licensees now have, (3) the ability of the VECs to handle the workload, and (4) the reduction of errors in applications. We have no doubt that having experienced VECs handling the examination paperwork would reduce the number of errors that the FCC has to deal with from volunteer examiners of Novice class applicants. We also do not doubt the ability of our VEC or any other to capably and professionally handle any increased workload resulting from the total inclusion of Novice testing into the VEC system. However, we believe that the other grounds do not support the inclusion. On balance, we believe that eliminating the current parallel system is not a good idea.

Although VEC testing may be available in just about every corner of the lower 48 states and Hawaii, this is not the case in Alaska. We regularly conduct VEC examination sessions in many locations around the State of Alaska and provide occasional sessions for other locations not regularly served. However, in a state as large as Alaska with as small and scattered a population as we have, and with as little transportation infrastructure, it is not feasible to conduct VEC testing everywhere we would like to go. We simply cannot drive to most of the land area in this state. Many locations are accessible only by boat, floatplane or other aircraft. We

in Anchorage cannot even drive to our state capital, Juneau, which is accessible only by boat or air. Certain other locations are restricted to military personnel only, such as the US Navy's base at Adak Island. Even many locations on the road system are hundreds of miles from our closest regular testing location. We have accredited VE's all over the state, but it simply is not enough because the population, particularly outside of Anchorage and Fairbanks, is so sparse. As a result, there are many areas where there may be two or more licensed amateurs of General class or above who could give Novice class examinations, but no reasonable or convenient access to a regular VEC testing location. It would be unfortunate indeed if this avenue of access to Amateur Radio is closed.

We do not believe that the increased privileges mandate bringing the Novice class examinations exclusively within the VEC system. There is no evidence that the increased privileges have resulted in an increase of fraudulent testing of Novice class applicants nor do we believe that there is likely to be any. It is our experience that all Amateurs who conduct tests, whether in the VEC system or not, take that responsibility very seriously regardless of the level of operating privileges. Conversely, those who do not take the responsibility seriously will not take it seriously regardless of the level of operating privileges at stake.



## Election Time - All Aboard The AARC Railroad!

Election time is coming up again, with elections held in June. Below is the slate of offices up for election. If you would like to take a very active part in the leadership of the AARC or know someone who would be willing to be nominated for one of these openings, please call the Nominating Committee Chairman, Bill Beach - AL7MM at 345-1667 (h) or 263-4488 (w).

Office	Currently Held By	Nominees
President	Fred, KL7HFM	_____
Vice President	Joan, AL7NK	_____
Activities Mgr.	Richard, AL7MO	_____
Secretary	Lil, NL7DL	_____
Treasurer	Vacant	_____
3 Year Board	Lance, AL7BK	_____
1 Year Board	John, AL7ID	_____
1 Year Board	Jerry, AL7HS	_____
1 Year Board	Mel, WL7IHE	_____
1 Year Board	John, NL7NC	_____
1 Year Board	Simon, NL7VR	_____
1 Year Board	Bob, NL7UH	_____

[Editor's note: Bill Beach, AL7MM volunteered to be the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee because of his desire to be an active participant in AARC activities. It has been a tradition of the AARC that the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee 'volunteer' themselves for one of the positions each year. However, Bill is also active in the Boy Scout program and has a conflict with most of the AARC Board meetings; he says that he would be unable to meet the commitment of not missing more than three Board meetings during the year.]

### Anchorage ARC Comments (Continued From Page 10)

The ARRL and W5YI petitions point out that many VEC sessions already provide the opportunity to take a Novice class examination. We are one of them. all of our VEC examinations sessions have conducted Novice class examinations for years. We do not charge for an examinations. both of these facts manifest our belief that Amateur examinations should be as available as possible. In our view, there is no real reason why all VECs should not already be administering Novice class examinations as a part of

their program. Certainly, increased availability of testing opportunities will allow easier access to the licensing system and greater numbers of Amateur Radio operators. Restricting access could only result in less entry-level Amateurs. Therefore, we advocate continuation of the current system and we encourage all other VECs to provide Novice class examinations as well so as to make Amateur Radio as accessible as possible to potential applicants.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to write us at the address listed above.

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB, INC. VEC  
By: Michael S. McLaughlin,  
WA7USX,  
VEC Board Member

[This letter was sent to the FCC last Fall along with many other letters and comments from Alaskan Amateurs. We have reprinted it here since it was included in a recent response to the FCC by the Arctic Amateur Radio Club in Fairbanks. Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ read the Fairbanks letter to us at the February meeting but didn't have time to read this letter as well.]



## Part One Of A Six Part Investigative Scientific Research Series Into

**AURORA DISTURBANCES ON HF PROAGATION**

By B. B. Capers, AL7BB

[Editor's note: This article is reprinted here for the benefit of Outside subscribers to The Anchorage Amateur. We are required by US Postal Regulations to include the same items in all copies of the newsletters and so we ask our Insiders to bear with us in re-reading this Learned Treatse on Arctic RF Propagation Phenomena]

There has been much discussion of, and scientific research into the strange magnetic disturbances of the aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights.

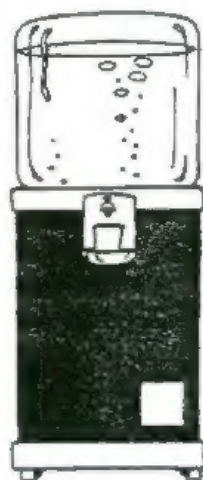
There are those that feel that the magnetic disturbances are due to eruptions on the Sun, and that for each occurrence in the Northern Hemisphere, there is an identical occurrence in the Southern Hemisphere. the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, has a research station at Poker Flats Missile Range where they fire research missiles loaded with chemicals to amplify the visual effects, into the atmosphere to study the pattern and intensity of the visual effects.

This writer has had the opportunity to study, though not scientifically, these visual patterns both in a field environment of working and living in a tent at temperatures of "forty below" and surviving off meals with exotic names, but packaged in containers colored an Olive Drab, and produced by the lowest bidder on a government contract; as well as in the relative comfort of a heated cabin where the temperatures sometimes reach a comfortable plus 125 degrees, for in my rush to make an observation, I put entirely too much wood into a stove that is at least three times too large for the 20 ft by 24 ft cabin.

[Over] thirteen winters I have found that the best observations of these rare lights can be made in the middle of the night while sitting on the cold seat of a snow machine in the middle of a frozen lake at least 30 miles from the nearest warm fire. It was during one of these outings, while trying to return to the cabin with the fire, after observing a

very brilliant display of these lights, that I had the headlight burn out on my snow machine. As I was attempting to traverse the machine through the woods with a temperature of minus 30F, and at a speed of at least 5 MPH, for I found that any speed higher than that resulted in my embracing a few trees as if they were long lost lovers, and a continual stream of statements best left unsaid in mixed company. All of a sudden, I noticed a strange glow, and with a little imagination, I was able to pick my way back to the comfort of the cabin with ease. The latter being accomplished by foot, due to the sudden and unexpected depletion

of the machine fuel supply. while strolling through the woods as one can only do while wrapped in fifty pounds of clothing, and wearing boots guaranteed to keep the feet from freezing at -50 F, but also guaranteed to strip all the skin off one's shin bones if one tries to walk more than 15 feet with the, I started to look for the source of this wealth of light that I was utilizing, and I found that it was coming from small sprinkles of what looked like feathers laying on the snow. the strange thing was when I attempted to pick up on of the particles, it simply disappeared with my touch.



AL7BB Arctic RF  
Research Centre

After arriving back at the cabin to the warm greeting of my loving wife, and the question as to my whereabouts for the past five hours, and the statement that I should stroll to the Trading Post, and inform the State Troopers that the manhunt should be called off, for I was in fact safe, and they were a victim of the fears of a worried wife, I started to ponder the reason for the "light in the woods".

Over the years, I have kept track of these wonderful visual, but cursed lack of radio propagation, events, and I am convinced that I have finally discovered the secret of the Aurora, however, I must do a little more investigation prior to revealing this secret. *For no doubt, the scientific world will be shocked, and there will be many disbelievers that will have to be convinced of my findings.*



**AARC GENERAL MEETINGS** are held on the first Friday evening of each month in Room 102 of the Carr-Gottstein Building on the Alaska Pacific University Campus.

The campus is located at 4101 University Drive and Bragaw Streets. Parking is available only in the lot to the northeast of the building.

The meetings begin at 7:00 PM and visitors are always welcome! The AARC legendary raffle is open to everyone.

**AARC BOARD MEETINGS** are held on the second Wednesday evening of each month in Room 104 of the Carr-Gottstein Building on the APU campus.

The meetings begin at 7:00 PM and are open to all club members and visitors.

**AARC MID MONTH SOCIALS** are held on the third Wednesday evening of each month (except June, November and December). They begin at 7:00 PM at the Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant, 800 Northway Drive.

Visitors are always welcome!

#### THE KL7AA REPEATERS

sponsored by the club are on 146.94 (at minus .600), 224.94 (-1.600) and 444.7 (+5.000). The two meter repeater located on top of Flattop Mt. requires a 100 hz tone for access.

The satellite receiver located on Government Hill does not require a tone. The 125 cm repeater, also on Flattop Mt. and the 70 cm repeater located at the South Central Radio site do not require tone for access. The repeater trustee is William Reiter, KL7ITI. Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX, is chairman of the VHF/UHF committee.

#### KL7AA-7 PACKET OPERATIONS

Ports are 145.01 mhz, 147.96 mhz and 445.05 mhz at 1,200 Baud; 7108.5 khz at 300 Baud and 445.11 mhz at 9600 Baud. Remember that 147.96 mhz is normally in use as the Iceworm link to other Alaskan communities and limit use of that port to evening hours.

A landline port is available at 300-9600 Baud, V32.bis compatible; registration is required, contact Sysop John Lawson, NL7NC, at 337-2467 for info, or contact alternate Sysops Doug KL7IKX, Paul WL7BF, Jim NL7C, Merle AL7LD or Bill AL7MM.

**FREE LICENSE EXAMS** are held on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 6:30PM in the Carr-Gottstein Bldg on the APU campus and on the third Wednesday evening of the month in Eagle River at 7PM in the basement of the VFW Hall. For more information contact VEC Director, Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ at 892-6365.

#### ANCHORAGE ARES NET

The Anchorage area Amateur Radio Emergency Services net is held each Thursday evening at 8:00 PM on the KL7ION repeater on 147.3 (+.600). Net Control is Lil Marvin, NL7DL and alternate NCS station is KL7IO. The Westlink Amateur Radio report, Swap N Shop and the Parka Net follow the ARES net on the same frequency.

**AARC MEMBERSHIP DUES** are \$20.00 regular, \$25.00 family and \$10.00 student. Dues are due one year from date of last payment. There is a 30 day grace period. Life memberships are available. Contact Lance Dunbar, AL7BK, (H) 337-6297 or (W) 561-5457. Please remember that the club receives \$2.00 for each ARRL membership renewal and \$5.00 for each new ARRL membership if they are processed through the AARC.

### ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. PO BOX 101987 - ANCHORAGE, AK 99510-1987

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Do you have other special interest in Amateur Radio? \_\_\_\_\_ MICROPROCESSOR/DIGITAL \_\_\_\_\_

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